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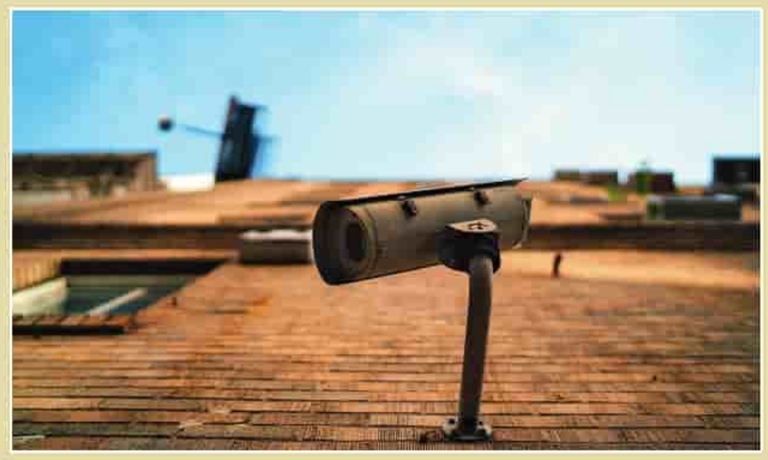
Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 32 | Min 23 | Humidity 51% Partly Cloudy Sensex 80,641 | Nifty 24,379 | Gold 96,744 | Silver 96,605 | Dollar 84.28 | Euro 95.64 | GBP 112.83



CAUGHT ON CAMERA

5.35 lakh CCTV cameras spanning each corner of civic life in city geo-tagged to close surveillance gaps

PAGE 3

WASTED EFFORTS

Dumping of bulk waste continues in city, in some cases industrial waste being cast off in residential areas

PAGE 4

Fewer than 0.5% of citizens going out of town make use of the 'locked house checking' initiative, even as burglaries persist, but police say most taking sufficient precautions of their own

BURGLAR ALARM

South Division reports higher number of burglary cases than rest of city

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Despite a surge in house break-in cases across the city, very few residents are opting to use the police's 'locked house checking' system, a proactive safety measure in place across all divisions, designed to protect homes while families are away for extended periods.

Though the system allows any resident in Bengaluru to inform their local police station before going on vacation, enabling regular patrol checks around their home, the response has been minimal.

While property-related thefts have declined in the first three months of this year compared to the same period last year, burglary remains a concern across the city. According to Commissioner of Police B Dayananda, although the number of residents informing police before leaving on long vacations remains low, and varies from one division to another, many are still taking basic precautions to safeguard their homes and deter break-ins.

The South Division, which comprises several densely populated residential neighbourhoods, continues to report a higher number of burglary cases compared to other parts of the city. While the locked house-checking initiative is available citywide, the South Division has been implementing it more actively, owing to its concentration of both apartment complexes and independent houses.

Despite increased efforts in the area, only 48 households have registered for the service since its launch. Of these, 39 homes have been regularly monitored with no break-ins reported, while police patrols are still ongoing for the remaining nine. Though exact citywide

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 >>

"Though the percentage of residents informing the police before leaving town is low or vary, people are taking precautions like locking up houses securely, avoiding leaving valuables behind, keeping lights on, or halting newspaper deliveries —B Dayananda, Commissioner of Police

Don't touch 50

Environmentalists happy with making govt approval mandatory to chop over 50 trees, but want closer eye on misuse of rule

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City-based tree activists and environmentalists have welcomed Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre's recent announcement regarding compulsory government approval for cutting more than 50 trees for any project in Bengaluru. Experts say that though the new rule, if formulated, will ensure better security to Bengaluru's dwindling green cover, there are some precautions to be kept in mind. Certain changes in existing rules and frameworks are the need of the hour to ensure greater safety, they said.

"While the announcement made by the Forest Minister is a step in the right direction, his office should be watchful about project proponents misusing the rule. Multiple agencies, including BMRCL, in the past have tried to circumvent the rule of 50 trees by breaking down a project into multiple parts to misuse the rule," Vijay Nishant, founder of Project Vruksha and a member of the Bengaluru Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 >>

THINGS TO DO

01 Paw paradise

Pet Fed is presenting its Express Edition Pet Festival. Pets are in for a treat as the event offers an exclusive play area, a pet fashion show, a pet talent show, pet shopping stalls, and food and beverages for your beloved companions. **Where: Phoenix Mall of Asia, Yelahanka; When: May 25, 11 am**

02 Epic unveiled

ECTA and Tritiyo Sutra Production, in collaboration with ENAD Bengaluru, are presenting Shikhandi, which powerfully explores the concept of gender identity and vengeance, revealing the deep-rooted gender politics at play in Mahabharata. **Where: Jagriti Theatre, Whitefield; When: May 31, 3.30 pm and 7.30 pm**

03 Crafty affair

The Meena Bazaar Arts and Crafts Mela is presenting a vibrant mix of women's clothing, fashion accessories, perfumes, footwear, imitation jewelry, home appliances, and children's toys. **Where: Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Seshadripuram; When: Until May 11**

04 Unfolding tradition

Atta Galatta is organising Liberate Through Lavani, an insightful session that offers a glimpse into the lives of traditional Lavani artists from matriarchal communities. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: May 8, 7 pm**

05 Enchanting music

Phoenix Marketcity is set to host Kailash Kher, who will be performing live and mesmerising the audience with his songs. **Where: Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield; When: May 10**

Incorrect domicile certificates create admission hurdles

With risk of failing to meet eligibility criteria, parents and students demand authorities to be more vigilant to avoid jeopardising candidates' opportunities

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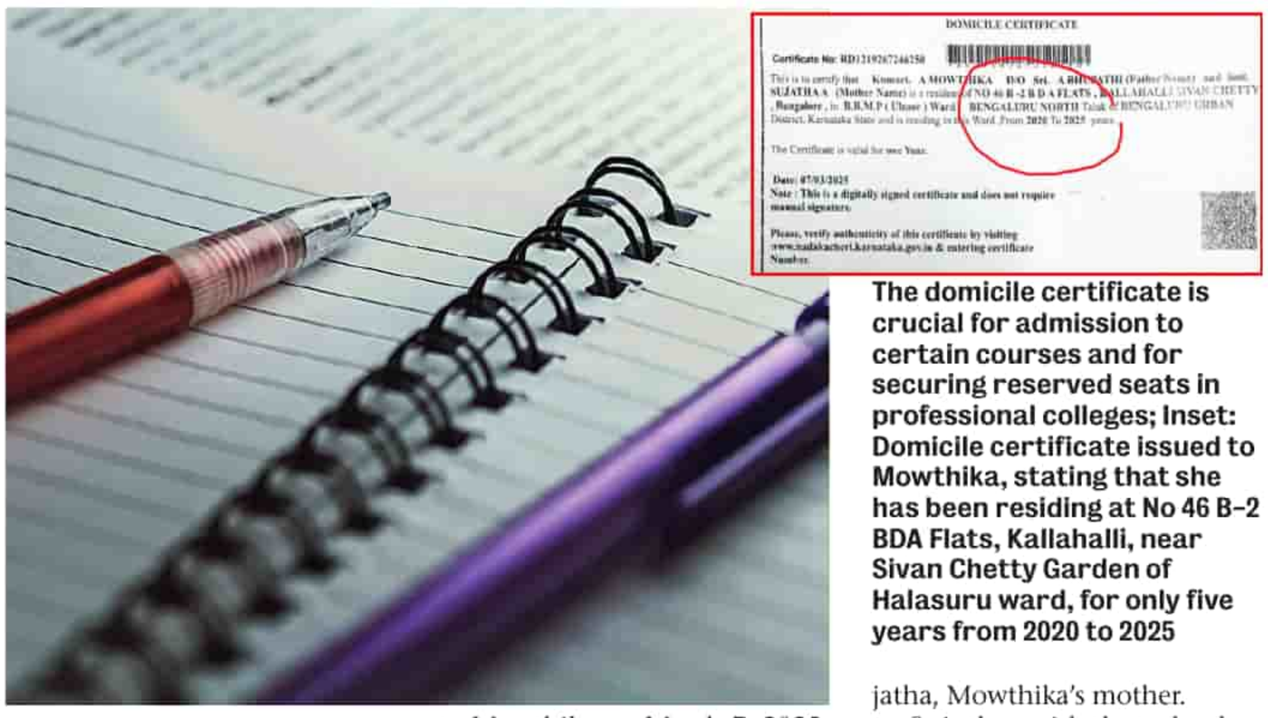

DOMICILE CERTIFICATE

Certificate No: RD1219267246250

This is to certify that Kumari. A MOWTHIKA D/O Sri. A BHUVATHI (Father Name) and Smt. SUJATHA A (Mother Name) is a resident of NO 46 B -2 B D A FLATS , KALLAHALLI SIVAN CHETTY , Bangalore , in B.B.M.P (Ulsoor) Ward BENGALURU NORTH Taluk of BENGALURU URBAN District, Karnataka State and is residing in this Ward From 2020 To 2025 years.

The Certificate is valid for two Years.

Date: 07/03/2025
Note : This is a digitally signed certificate and does not require manual signature.

Please, verify authenticity of this certificate by visiting www.nadakacheri.karnataka.gov.in & entering certificate Number.

The domicile certificate is crucial for admission to certain courses and for securing reserved seats in professional colleges; Inset: Domicile certificate issued to Mowthika, stating that she has been residing at No 46 B-2 BDA Flats, Kallahalli, near Sivan Chetty Garden of Halasuru ward, for only five years from 2020 to 2025

The domicile certificate, an official document provided by the state government to recognise the residence of a citizen, issued by the revenue department officer under the respective taluk office, is an essential document for students appearing for the Common Entrance Test (CET) in Karnataka. It is especially important for those seeking admission to state quota seats. The domicile certificate verifies the candidate's residence in the state, and is required for certain courses or for securing reserved seats in professional colleges.

Many students, especially those from neighbouring states who have settled in Karnataka, need the domicile certificate during admission to professional courses. Some such students have been facing a lot of problems due to the negligence and apathy of the revenue authorities in issuing domicile certificates for CET.

A Mowthika, a student of Jyothi Nivas Pre-University College, has been facing challenges in obtaining a domicile certificate from the revenue authorities. According to her Study and Conduct Certificate, she was enrolled at PM Shri Kendriya Vidyalaya, MEG and Centre, St John's Road, Bengaluru, from July 2, 2014, to June 1, 2023. Her parents, as per the Indane Domestic Gas Customer Card, have been residing at Quarter No 4/5, Stone Building, Meanee Line, MEG and Centre since October 2015.

> **"The authorities have to take measures to avoid parents and students making a number of visits to the taluk offices for the domicile certificate** – Kalidasa Reddy, a social activist from Kallahalli

As per the Study and Conduct Report issued by PM Shri Kendriya Vidyalaya, MEG and Centre, Mowthika is eligible for the domicile certificate for 10 years. However, the revenue authorities have issued a domicile certificate to Mowthika on March 7, 2025, stating that she has been residing at No 46 B-2 BDA Flats, Kallahalli, near Sivan Chetty Garden of Halasuru ward, for only five years from 2020 to 2025. Mowthika and her parents were taken aback upon receiving a domicile certificate valid for only five years. As an Other Backward Category (OBC) candidate, she requires a 10-year domicile certificate to qualify for reserved seats in professional courses.

"We have been running pillar to post seeking the authorities to issue the domicile certificate for 10 years as per the records submitted. Our daughter studied from 2nd standard to PUC in Bengaluru. Our daughter will lose the benefits under the OBC category during the admission to professional courses," said Sujatha, Mowthika's mother.

Sujatha said that she has been visiting Bengaluru North Taluk Office at Rajajinagar for the last two months, pleading the revenue authorities to issue the correct domicile certificate but in vain.

Coming down heavily on the apathetic and negligent behaviour from revenue authorities, Kalidasa Reddy, a social activist from Kallahalli, said that many students have been suffering due to wrong domicile certificates issued by the revenue authorities. "I want the higher authorities, including Karnataka Lokayukta, to keep a vigil on corrupt revenue authorities. The authorities have to take measures to avoid parents and students making a number of visits to the taluk offices for the domicile certificate," said Reddy.

Kids get lessons on mindful food habits

An unique program was held to create awareness amongst children on the importance of food. Helping Heroes India Foundation, in collaboration with RHA volunteers, organised a special event at their weekly academy, where underprivileged children from four slum communities in Jayanagar receive educational support. As part of the ongoing school summer holidays, the academy held a unique 'Cooking Without Fire' competition at Jayanagar 9th Block Park, encouraging children to showcase their creativity and teamwork.

All children were given stuffed toys as tokens of appreciation for their efforts

Under the guidance of dedicated volunteers, students from 5th to 9th grade enthusiastically participated, forming three teams to plan and execute their culinary creations. Their skills, enthusiasm, and positivity reflected their eagerness to learn and engage in new experiences. The event, which commenced at 11 am and concluded at 2 pm, was marked by joy and excitement. In recognition of their efforts, all participating children were given teddy bears as tokens of appreciation.

Helping Heroes India Foundation Founder Trustee Younes Matheen emphasised that education is about instilling confidence in children, helping them recognise their capabilities, and encouraging them to dream beyond their circumstances. "As we continue our Sunday academy sessions, I am motivated more than ever to ensure that every child gets the encouragement they need to shape their future," he said. He highlighted that events such as these affirm the importance of community-driven initiatives, proving that small acts of kindness and support can make a world of difference. "Together, we can build a society where every child, regardless of background, has access to opportunities that nurture their potential," he said.

— Y Maheswara Reddy

BBMP witnesses high property tax collection

In a robust start to the 2025-26 financial year, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) collected a staggering Rs 1,417 crore in property tax in April alone. According to revenue officials, out of approximately 22 lakh properties under BBMP's jurisdiction, nearly 8 lakh property owners paid their taxes in the first month of the fiscal year. This marks a significant increase compared to last April's collection of Rs 670 crore.

An official noted that BBMP has set an ambitious target of Rs 5,716 crore for property tax collection this year. With Rs 1,417 crore already collected, the civic body has achieved nearly 25% of its annual goal. "The remaining Rs 4,299 crore is to be collected over the next 11 months. Last year, the civic body had introduced a One-Time Settlement (OTS) scheme waiving penalties and interest for defaulters. Despite this, 3.75 lakh property owners still owe Rs 836 crore in unpaid taxes," the official said. The official added that this year, solid waste management charges have also been bundled with property tax payments, contributing to the higher collection figures. The state government has extended the 5% rebate period on property tax payments until the end of May. Hence, BBMP will not initiate recovery measures until June. From then, defaulters will face strict action including seizure and auction of properties, officials confirmed. **— BMB**

Bengaluru races ahead with smart surveillance

5.35 lakh CCTV cameras spanning every corner of civic life geo-tagged already

Bengaluru is shifting gears towards smarter urban mobility and surveillance, with initiatives like the geo-tagging of over 5.35 lakh CCTV cameras by April 30 this year, under the MCCTNS (Mobile Companion for Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems).

Just a year ago, this number stood at 2.32 lakh.

Commissioner of Police B Dayananda said on Tuesday, "These cameras serve as the eyes and ears of the police department. In the event of any crime or disturbance, they play a crucial role in uncovering the truth about what actually happened."

The installation of these cameras is driven by multiple factors. First, the Karnataka Public Safety (Measures) Enforcement Act, 2017 mandates that establishments in commercial areas with a certain footfall (100 people at a time or 500 daily) must install CCTV cameras and retain footage for up to 30 days for potential police use.

Second, the initiative falls under the Safe City project. And third, it involves contributions from BBMP and other civic authorities and even citizens.

The primary objective of the geotagging initiative is to map cameras installed in public spaces, whether set up by government bodies, private organisations, or individuals. "We have also asked residents with their own house, tea stall, garment shops and other commercial areas to install cameras," Dayananda said.

Number of Cameras Geo-tagged in MCCTNS
(as per developer data)

Sl.No	Division	As on April 1, 2024	As on April 1, 2025	New Cameras*
1	Central	16,761	1,508	18,269
2	West	41,586	64,137	1,05,723
3	North	17,059	50,398	67,457
4	South	28,133	31,671	59,804
5	East	31,946	23,409	55,355
6	NorthEast	17,156	34,072	51,228
7	SouthEast	34,769	43,017	77,786
8	WhiteField	45,301	54,892	1,00,193

The cameras span every corner of civic life—from residential colonies and commercial zones to traffic signals, hospitals, schools, and banks.

A police official said, "Geo-tagged cameras play a vital role in enhancing crime prevention and detection. They help identify areas lacking surveillance, especially where crimes have occurred. The aim is to close these surveillance gaps across the city."

Officials say that this surveillance grid is already aiding police personnel in real-time tracking, monitoring, and evidence collection. More importantly, this joint effort by the police and MCCTNS development team lays the groundwork for advanced policing initiatives for future 'Smart Patrolling', 'Digital City Security System' and 'Analytical Investigation' projects that rely heavily on accurate and up-to-date geospatial data.

— Sanjana CS

BM Education

Academic scene: According to the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2021-22, the country has 1,168 universities, 45,473 colleges, and 12,002 stand-alone institutions

Boosting autism support in schools nationwide

In a focused effort to make education more inclusive, the government is enhancing support systems for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) through its Block Resource Centres (BRCs). These centres are playing a crucial role in delivering specialized therapy services and educational interventions designed to help children with ASD reach their full developmental and learning potential.

Under the centrally sponsored Samagra Shiksha scheme, BRCs act as dedicated hubs providing therapy-based support tailored to meet the physical, cognitive, and communicative needs of children with special needs (CwSN). These centres offer a wide range of services, including occupational therapy to improve fine motor skills and daily living abilities, physiotherapy to enhance mobility and coordination, and speech therapy to address language delays and social interaction challenges. In addition, psychological and behavioural support helps children build emotional resilience, develop social skills, and gain self-confidence.

Each BRC is staffed with trained resource persons, special educators, and therapists who collaborate with parents, teachers, and caregivers to create individualised intervention plans. The centres also conduct regular screening camps, parent counselling sessions, and teacher orientation programs to ensure that every child's unique needs are addressed. Additionally, BRCs facilitate access to assistive devices, teaching aids, and other educational resources to enhance learning experiences for children with ASD.

Special educators and therapists design personalised plans for every child.

Kavitha Rao, a Child Development Specialist and Autism Therapist, praised the integration of therapy services within the school system, calling it a transformative step toward inclusive education in India. "Children with ASD often face multiple challenges ranging from communication delays and sensory processing issues to social and behavioural difficulties. By incorporating essential therapies like speech and occupational therapy into the school environment, we're not only addressing developmental delays, but we're also fostering long-term independence, confidence, and readiness for learning," she said.

> **"We're not only addressing developmental delays, but we're also fostering long-term independence, confidence, and readiness for learning**

Rao further emphasised that the collaborative approach where educators, therapists, and parents work together ensures that interventions are consistent and tailored to each child's specific needs. Early identification and intervention are crucial, and regular counselling and awareness sessions for families and teachers reduce stigma while promoting acceptance of neurodiversity.

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Illegal waste dumping defies civic crackdown

From industrial waste to construction debris, BBMP efforts are being undermined by persistent illegal dumping, affecting both public health and the environment

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Industrial waste and smoke continue to plague Bengaluru despite civic efforts to curb pollution and illegal dumping

Despite the efforts of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and various social and cultural organisations to beautify the city, bulk waste dumping continues unabated. It is alarming to find industrial waste being discarded in residential areas, undermining both public health and civic efforts.

It has become routine for some unscrupulous contractors, assigned to transport construction and demolition debris or bulk waste to designated sites, to instead dump it in vacant plots, flouting regulations and harming the environment.

BBMP marshals recently discovered industrial waste dumped illegally at Hanumanthanagar in the Basavanagudi Division. Upon investigation, they traced the origin of the waste to a commercial establishment located in the Peenya Industrial Area, approximately 15 km away from the dumping site. The source was identified through address details found on invoice papers within the dumped material. Consequently, the BBMP marshals imposed a fine of ₹40,000 on UV Laser Factory for unauthorised disposal of industrial waste.

The state government has invested ₹175 crore in the K-100 project, also known as the Koramangala Storm Water Drain Project. Despite this significant expenditure, the dumping of garbage and pumping of silt into the drain continues to be a concern. BBMP marshals recently found silt being discharged into the storm water drain from a nearby construction site. A penalty of ₹50,000 was imposed on the landowner for this violation.

Somasekhar Patil, Supervisor of BBMP Marshals, said that dumping waste at vacant places is rampant in Bengaluru South. " We imposed a penalty on a person for pumping silt from a construction site into the storm water drain at Koramangala," he said. Malini S, a SWM volunteer, said that dumping of garbage and construction and demolition (C&D) debris in and around RR Nagar. "I urge the authorities to take strong measures to penalise those responsible for dumping garbage on the roads," she said.

Expressing concern over indiscriminate dumping of waste on roads and vacant places, Vadiraj S, a SWM volunteer, said that garbage collection from door to door is not happening as expected. "Many people residing on third or fourth floors do not like to come down to handover garbage to the pourakarmikas. They come down as per their convenience and throw garbage on the road or on vacant places. I suggest the BBMP to insist apartment owners to keep plastic bins at a designated place on the apartment premise to dump garbage. It will be convenient for pourakarmikas to collect waste and avoid residents throwing waste on the road. I want Karnataka State Pollution Control Board officials to monitor industries whether or not following the SOP on disposing industrial waste," said Vadiraj.

"Many people residing on third or fourth floors do not like to come down to handover garbage to the pourakarmikas. They come down as per their convenience and throw garbage on the road or in vacant places
– Vadiraj S, SWM Volunteer

State to reclaim Hebbal land for key infrastructure projects

Deputy CM confirms acquisition plan, saying the plot is vital for integrating metro, suburban rail, and road networks at the city's northern entry

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Hebbal is set for major infrastructure upgrades including a Metro depot and transport hub

After prolonged uncertainty, the Karnataka government has now made it clear that it intends to reclaim the strategically located 45-acre land parcel in Hebbal to facilitate major infrastructure developments. Following a high-level meeting on Monday, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar confirmed the decision, stating, "We have firmly decided to acquire this land. It is essential for key projects including the Metro depot, tunnel road, and an integrated transport hub. Compensation will be offered in the form of TDR, FAR, or other applicable norms—but we cannot let go of this land. It is the gateway to Bengaluru, and we must upgrade the entire area."

The decision comes amid delays in handing over the land to BMRCL, raising speculation that real estate interests may be slowing the process. With mounting pressure from various stakeholders including MP Shobha Karandlaje and entrepreneur Mohandas Pai, who have called on the state to fast-track the Metro-related land transfer, Monday's announcement is seen as a critical step forward. The Deputy CM added that the government has directed planners to create a comprehensive development blueprint combining the Metro, tunnel road, and a multimodal transport hub to maximise the land's public utility.

Sources said that the disputed land was originally acquired by KIADB in 2000 for a private company, but as the company failed to develop it, BMRCL offered ₹12.10 crore per acre, amounting to ₹551.15 crore, to purchase the land for Phase 3. The Metro authority had initially sought 6,712.97 square meters and had already purchased it at the same rate set by KIADB. Now, it seeks an additional 45 acres for its expansion. The land is technically under KIADB's control but was acquired for private use, creating legal hurdles. BMRCL aims to build a crucial Metro station at Hebbal under Phase 3, connecting JP Nagar 4th Phase to Kempapura via the Orange Line. Additionally, it plans to establish stations for the Blue and Red Lines and integrate the suburban rail project (K-RIDE), along with multi-level car parking, a multi-modal transport hub, a bus terminal, and a Metro depot. If the government directly transfers the land through KIADB, legal disputes could arise, leading to a potential 10–12-year court battle. To avoid delays, the government previously suggested that BMRCL negotiate directly with the private company to reach an amicable settlement. The upcoming meeting will be crucial in determining the way forward for this vital infrastructure project.

The Metro authority had initially sought 6,712.97 square metres and had already purchased it at the same rate set by KIADB

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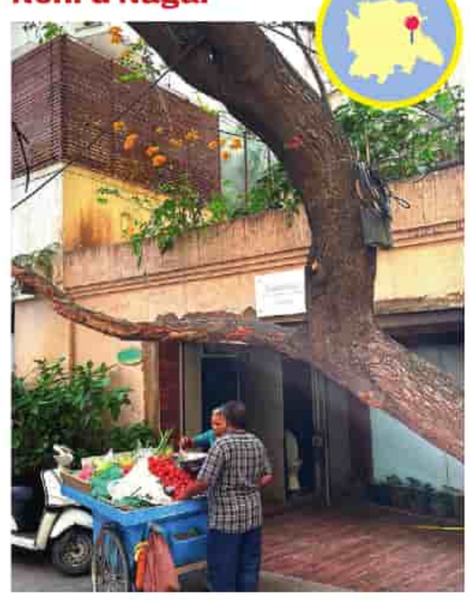
Garbage woes
Venkatapura

The road in Venkatapura Layout has become a garbage dumping site, with nearly half of it covered in waste. The garbage truck does not visit daily, forcing residents to wait and hand over their waste only when it does arrive.

Timber trouble
Nehru Nagar



A tree near the sports club in Nehru Nagar, Seshadripuram is dangerously bent and poses a serious risk, as it could collapse at any moment.

Neglected well
Ulsoor

The well that supplies drinking water to Murphy Town in Ulsoor is in a severely neglected condition. Despite its vital role, authorities have shown little interest in maintaining it. Residents urge immediate action to clean and restore the well for safe use.

Narc trail busted: Police seize over 109 kg ganja

3 operations yield success with contraband worth Rs 89 lakh seized

Police Commissioner and other officials with the seized contraband, on Tuesday

Drug peddlers just hit a dead end in the city. In three separate crackdowns that exposed the growing narcotics network snaking into the city from Odisha and other neighbouring states, police teams across the city seized over 109 kg 265 grams of ganja worth Rs 89.20 lakh in a span of days — packed in cars, couriered in goods vehicles, and peddled across neighbourhoods.

For the first time luck changed for a rowdy sheeter in drug business after Govindaraja Nagar Police arrested him with 43.08 kg of ganja, worth ₹25 lakh, near Dodda Mori in Pategar Palya. Acting on a tip-off received on April 29, the police swiftly registered an NDPS case and raided the location.

The accused, Mubark (36), is a known rowdy sheeter from Banashankari police limits who also has a history of 23 criminal cases such as theft, burglary and others. He is said to have sourced the banned substance from Odisha at a low price and was allegedly selling it at high profits to customers in Bengaluru. During the operation, officials seized the massive consignment of ganja.

In HSR Layout, police arrested a man selling ganja from a goods vehicle parked near an International School in Sector 4.

Acting on a tip-off received on May 1 from a source in Bathmidhar, police swiftly raided the location and found 62 kilograms of marijuana, neatly packed and ready for distribution.

The man, caught at the scene, was taken into custody. Along with the contraband, police seized the vehicle and a mobile phone believed to have been used for drug deals. The estimated value of the seized items is ₹60 lakh. According to police officials, he was a habitual offender who had 7 cases booked for various offences.

During interrogation, the accused confessed to sourcing the ganja from Odisha at a lower price and transporting it to Bengaluru, where his primary customers were college students and IT professionals.

In another operation, the CCB Anti-Narcotics Squad arrested two men near Veeranjaneyaswamy Temple in GM Palya on May 2. Acting on a tip-off, the team seized 4.185 kg of ganja, two mobile phones, and a two-wheeler used in the crime, worth ₹4.2 lakh. The duo allegedly sourced the narcotic from Andhra's Araku Valley and sold it to students and techies in Bengaluru. **BMB**

Foreigner nabbed with MDMA worth ₹52 lakh

A smooth car, neatly packed zip-lock bags, and a weighing machine were all part of a high-stakes street deal that never reached its buyer, after Kothanur Police, arrested a foreign national in the act of peddling the banned party drug methamphetamine (MDMA) on Puravankara Jodi Road. The bust led to the seizure of 416 grams of the potent substance, valued at a staggering ₹52.15 lakh.
Acting on a tip-off from a reliable informant on May 1, the police moved in and caught the suspect red-handed. The accused identified as Owsu Collins Ghanaian (35) was found in possession of 416 grams of MDMA,₹15,000 in cash, a weighing machine, 20 empty zip lock pouches, and a car used for the drug trade. Initial questioning revealed that the foreigner sourced the banned substance from an unidentified compatriot at a low price and sold it at a hefty profit.

Cops caught taking ₹1 lakh bribe

The Karnataka Lokayukta police on Monday detained Shivaji Rao, Inspector of Kempegowda Nagar Police Station, and Sub-Inspector Shivanand while accepting a bribe of ₹1 lakh. The bribe was allegedly demanded to favour an accused in a criminal case.

The duo was caught red-handed following a complaint by Keshavamurthy from Avalahalli. According to officials, the complainant, Keshavamurthy approached the Lokayukta after being unable to pay the full 6 lakh bribe allegedly demanded by the two officers. A trap was laid, and both officers were caught red-handed under the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

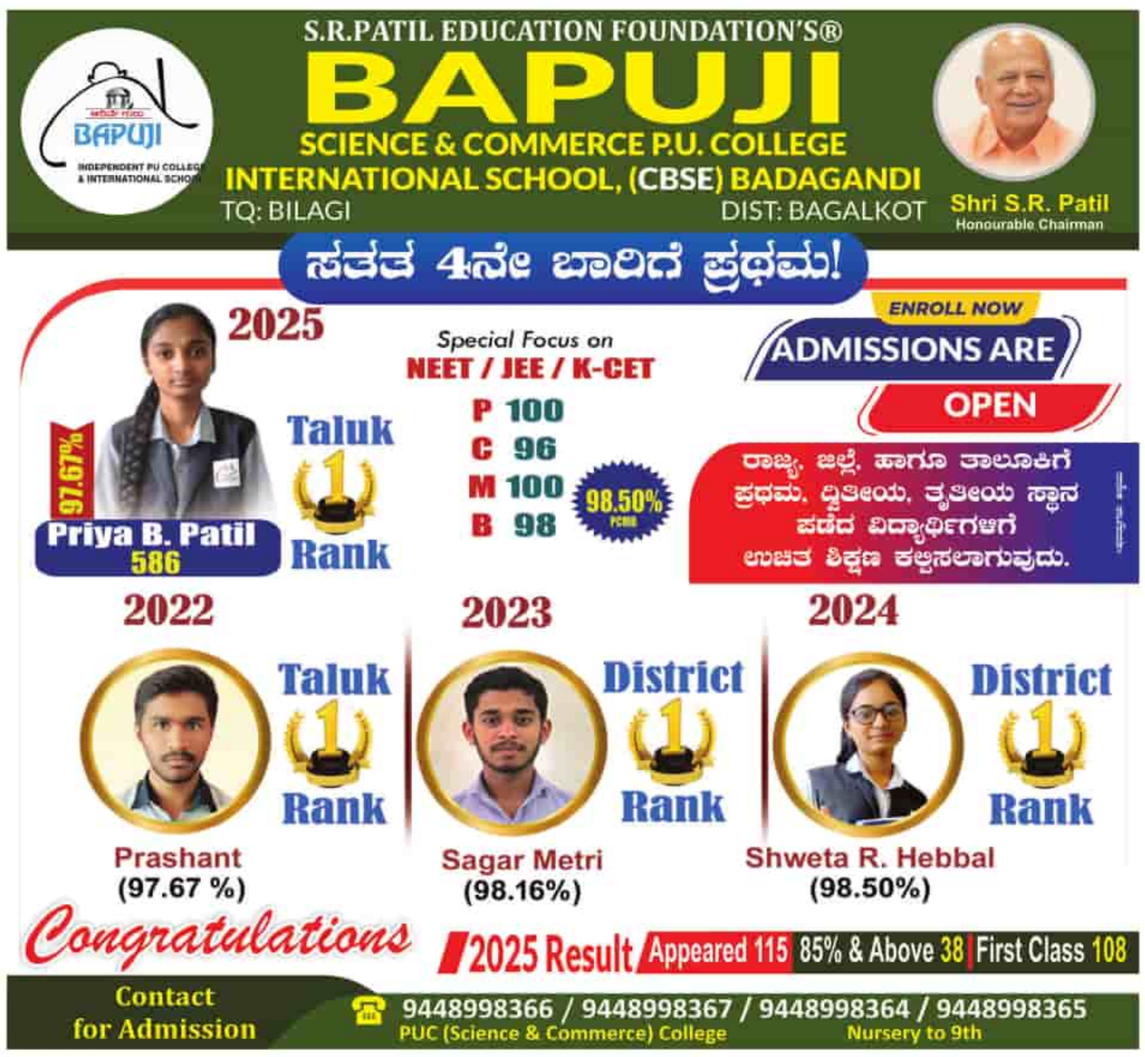
Businessman Uttam Chand Maru had filed a complaint accusing Keshavamurthy of cheating him under the pretext of helping secure a CL-07 or CL-09 liquor licence. Keshavamurthy allegedly claimed to be a driver in the Excise Department and promised influence. Between 2020 and 2022, Maru transferred ₹1.3 crore and 1.24 kg of gold to Keshavamurthy but never received the promised licence. **BMB**

Fatal collision: Man gets 30 days' jail

A man has been sentenced after being involved in a collision that claimed one life. A 35-year-old, Siraj Basha, died in a head-on collision between two two-wheelers around 9.35 am opposite Infantry Road. Siraj was riding pillion on a bike when a scooter coming from the opposite direction crashed into the bike.

The impact flung Siraj onto the road, leaving him with severe head injuries. The rider of the scooter, identified as Ayub Khan (45), was found at fault in the subsequent investigation led by Shivajinagar Traffic Police.

A case was registered and the court has now sentenced Ayub Khan to 30 days of simple imprisonment and a fine of ₹3,500. **BMB**



Mock drill in 54 years: 32 locations in city

As the Central Government has directed extensive mock drills to be conducted across 244 strategic locations nationwide on Wednesday, emergency preparedness exercises will be conducted at 32 locations across Bengaluru at 4 pm.

As per the direction of MHA to conduct Civil Defence Exercise called 'Operation Abhyaas', the first mock drill is being conducted at premises of Director General, Civil Defence. The exercise will include the Incoming Air Raid, activation of sirens, action to be taken, blackout measures, fire in the building, search & rescue, casualty evacuation from the building, temporary hospital setting up and more. Bengaluru, equipped with 35 air raid sirens, of which 32 are functional, will witness mock drills at various high-alert zones. The mock drill will take place at several critical locations, including key institutions, police and fire stations, and essential facilities. These include the Indian Institute, CQAL, ESI Hospital, NAL, Bangalore Dairy, Canara Bank, SRS Peenya, and numerous fire stations such as VV Tower, Gnanabharati, Thanisandra, Banasawadi, Yeshwantpur, Banashankari, Rajajinagar, Chamarajpet, Peenya, Anjanapura, ITPL, and Electronic City. Additionally, various police stations across the city, including those at Commercial Street, Halasuru Gate, Halasuru, Upparpet, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Kamakshipalya, KR Market, and Vyalikaval, along with the Halasuru Home Guard Headquarters, will also be part of the drill. **BMB**

Elephant deaths: HC asks govt to map risk zones

Court prepares roadmap to stop jumbo electrocution

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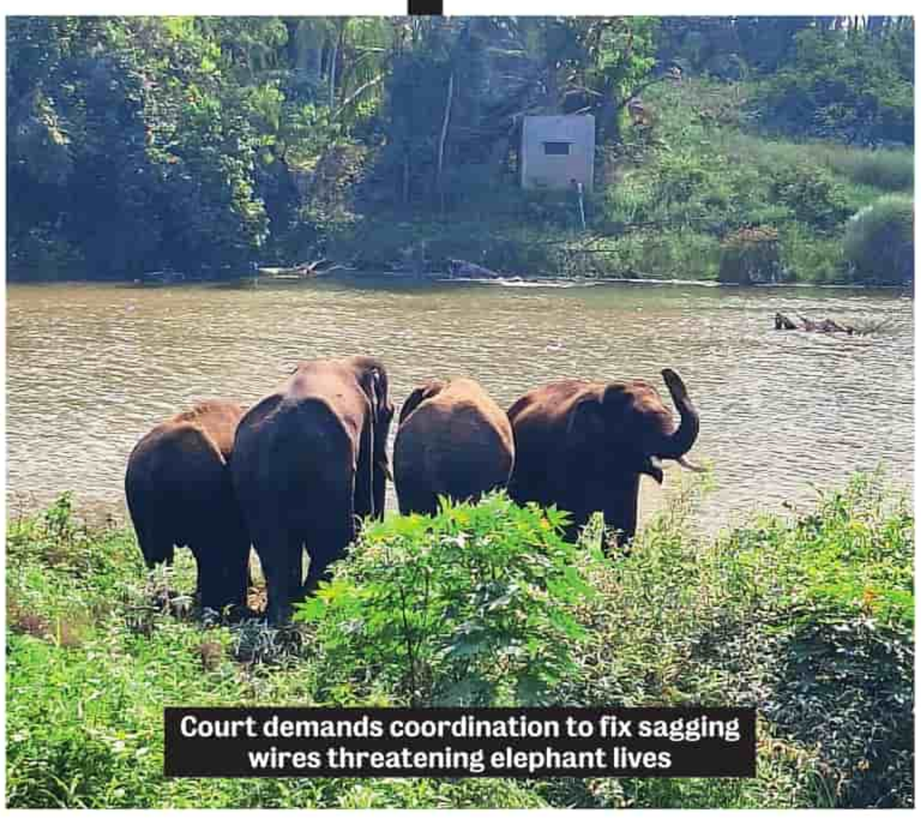

Court demands coordination to fix sagging wires threatening elephant lives

The Karnataka High Court has directed the State Government and state forest department to form area-wise investigating committees to map sagging power lines and illegal electrical fences across the state that may potentially lead to electrocution and death of elephants.

HC issued the directive while disposing of a suo motu petition initiated in June last year, following a Bangalore Mirror article published on June 13, 2024. The article highlighted the increasing number of elephant deaths in Karnataka due to electrocution, including the tragic death of Ashwathama, a 38-year-old Dasara elephant.

In response to the report, the court had issued notices to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), the Government of Karnataka, the Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment of Karnataka, and officials from the Karnataka Forest Department (KFD), seeking data and responses on elephant deaths linked to electrocution.

Based on the reports submitted, a division bench comprising Chief Justice NV Anjaria and Justice MI Arun passed the order, emphasising the need to protect elephants and prevent such deaths through better monitoring and stricter enforcement. "The authorities should identify and map risk-prone areas where sagging power lines or illegal electrical fences could cause accidents within elephant habitats and at forest fringes," the court stated. To that end, the Chief Conservator of Forests has been tasked with forming area-wise investigating committees across forest circles to periodically assess these risks.

Bangalore Mirror
FELL IN HIS PRIME: JUMBO DEATH LEAVES ALL SHOCKED
Ashwathama is the latest to fall victim to what conservationists are calling sheer carelessness on part of authorities

A suo-motu petition filed by the court last year, based on an article published in Bangalore Mirror on June 13, 2024

The court stressed that the existing guidelines issued by MoEF&CC regarding the laying of transmission lines through forested regions must be strictly implemented and routinely monitored. Forest officials must also coordinate with the Energy Department to inspect and maintain power lines, ensuring they remain at a safe height especially in hilly regions where sagging lines are more common due to difficult terrain and neglected upkeep.

> **"The authorities should identify and map the risk areas...within elephant habitats and forest fringes** – High Court order

"The threat is significantly higher in hilly areas, where power lines often do not meet the minimum clearance norms set by the National Board for Wildlife. These standards must be adhered to through regular maintenance," the court observed.

In addition to addressing sagging power lines, the bench highlighted the pressing issue of illegal electrical fencing used by farmers to deter elephants from entering agricultural fields near forest land. These fences, often set up without authorisation, have been linked to several electrocution deaths. The court ordered that such fences must be dismantled and replaced with scientific, safe barricades.

Recognising the role of awareness in prevention, the court also called for sustained community outreach initiatives. "Farmers and rural communities need to be educated about the dangers posed by illegal fencing and the importance of elephant conservation," the bench noted.

The court further recommended infrastructural solutions such as the construction of overpasses at strategic locations to provide elephants with safe corridors for movement, thereby reducing conflict with human settlements.

Technological interventions were also encouraged. The bench pointed to a pilot project in Nagarahole Tiger Reserve that uses artificial intelligence and CCTV-based e-surveillance to monitor wildlife movement. The court directed that such systems be expanded to all forest areas adjacent to human habitation. Additionally, it suggested the use of radio collars to track elephant movements and prevent conflict zones.

Legal accountability was another key focus of the order. The court stressed the importance of swift action when violations are reported under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, the Electricity Act, 2003, and other applicable laws. "Where negligence is evident, liability must be fixed on responsible forest department officers and staff," it said.

This is not the first time the court has intervened in the matter. In 2008, it took suo motu cognizance after media reports of multiple elephant deaths in Nanjangud taluk and around the Bandipur-Nagarahole corridor. Back then, authorities appeared clueless about the scale and causes of the deaths an observation the court has once again echoed in its latest remarks.

According to the article highlighted report that triggered the current proceedings, 35 elephants died from electrocution between January 2021 and June 12, 2024. The deaths were distributed across the years, with 12 in 2021, nine in both 2022 and 2023, and five already recorded in 2024. The article further revealed that 47 elephants died unnaturally during the same period, including due to electrocution, gunshots, road and train accidents, and snaring.

IN BRIEF

SC targets idle compensation

The Supreme Court has taken serious note of crores of rupees in unclaimed compensation lying idle in banks across the country, deposited in connection with motor vehicle accidents and labour-related cases. These funds, meant for victims and their legal heirs, have remained untouched for years.

In a major step, the apex court has directed all High Courts to launch special drives to identify genuine claimants and ensure the funds are disbursed without further delay. Across India, over ₹1,100 crore remains unclaimed including ₹282 crore linked to motor accident claims and ₹92 crore lying in court deposits in Karnataka alone. An additional ₹374 crore in other motor vehicle cases also remains unclaimed in the state.

The Court has also issued detailed guidelines for lower courts and tribunals. Motor Accident Claims Tribunals (MACTs) will conduct targeted campaigns to trace rightful beneficiaries and expedite the release of compensation. — BMB

Illegal banners paying homage in Jayanagar spark FIR

The BBMP has filed a police complaint over two banners erected in Jayanagar to pay tribute to those who lost their lives in the Pahalgam attack. An FIR has been registered at the Jayanagar police station against an unidentified individual for violating BBMP regulations. According to the complaint filed by Santosh Kumar, Assistant Executive Engineer of the BBMP, the banners were found on Ward No. 186, 7th Main Road and Diagonal Road in Jayanagar 4th Block. Measuring approximately 8x10 feet and 4x8 feet, the banners were installed without prior permission from the civic body, which is mandatory for any hoardings, posters, or banners in public spaces.

As per BBMP rules, failure to seek approval before placing such materials in public areas is a punishable offence. — BMB

43 city zones still at flood risk

Even as the city braces for the monsoon, 43 out of 209 flood-prone areas in Bengaluru remain vulnerable. BBMP Administrator and Additional Chief Secretary of the Urban Development Department, Tushar Giri Nath, has directed zonal officers to personally visit these locations and implement swift flood-mitigation measures to prevent disruptions during heavy rains.

Civic authorities have already addressed issues in 166 locations, but work continues across various departments to ensure the city is monsoon-ready. Agencies such as Metro, K-RIDE, and KPTCL have been told to speed up infrastructure works. Officials must also compile lists of repaired storm water drains and submit regular updates to the respective departments. Nath stressed the importance of completing all necessary work before the rains arrive.

Earlier this year, traffic police identified 82 waterlogging hotspots on major roads. BBMP engineers are now inspecting these sites, desilting side drains, and taking steps to reduce traffic congestion during downpours. Emergency preparedness is also under review. Bengaluru currently has 20 fire stations and one State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) company. Zonal commissioners have been instructed to maintain updated contact lists and stay in close coordination with local fire stations to enable quick response during emergencies. Meanwhile, annual maintenance of 175 km of storm water drains is underway, along with canal works in high-risk zones. Of the 647 potholes reported by traffic police, 323 have been filled, 239 are being repaired, and 90 on roads outside BBMP limits will be handled by other departments. — BMB

Pre-primary age rules mandatory

The Department of School Education has directed strict adherence to age criteria for admissions to pre-primary classes for the academic year 2025-26, even as it has relaxed the age limit for Class 1 admissions.

In a circular issued by the Director of Primary Education to education officers and school heads, the department said that the age norms followed in the previous academic year will remain in effect for pre-primary classes and must be implemented without exception. As per the guidelines, children must have completed four years for LKG and five years for UKG as of June 1. These rules have been in place since 2023-24. However, several pre-primary schools have reportedly flouted the norms by admitting underage children, leading to confusion and concern among parents.

Following parental requests, the government has eased the Class 1 age requirement this year, allowing children aged 5.5 years who have completed pre-primary education to enrol, instead of the earlier six-year minimum.

Despite this relaxation, complaints continue about LKG admissions of children who are only four as of June 1. Officials worry this could later prompt calls for further relaxations for Class 1, adding to the confusion. To avoid such complications, the department has urged schools to strictly follow the prescribed age norms and for admitting the kids below the eligible age. — BMB

CRIME FILES

CCB cracks down on IPL ticket black marketing

The Special Investigation Squad of the Central Crime Branch (CCB) conducted two separate operations on Saturday, arresting three persons for illegally selling tickets for the high-demand Tata IPL T20 match between Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) and Chennai Super Kings (CSK).

In the first operation, CCB officials raided Kalasanthe near Chinnaswamy Stadium, under the jurisdiction of the Cubbon Park Police Station, acting on a tip-off. A 37-year-old man, identified as Srikanth, a resident of Kalidas Layout, was apprehended for selling tickets at inflated prices. Officers seized four match tickets with a face value of ₹2,300 each, a mobile phone, and ₹1,100 in cash. Authorities also seized ₹36,190 from his bank account. The second operation carried out near the A2B Hotel within Wilson Garden Police Station limits, led to the arrest of two men red-handed attempting to sell tickets at inflated rates. The accused have been identified as Kushal, 22, from Sunkadakatte, and Abhishek, 21. A total of nine tickets were recovered, seven priced at ₹1,200 each and two at ₹1,500.

Burglary & vehicle theft racket busted

Jayanagar police arrested two habitual offenders, Mithun and Satish Kumar, in connection with multiple house break-ins and two-wheeler thefts across the city. The operation led to the recovery of 390 grams of gold bullion and two stolen two-wheelers, with the total seized property valued at ₹32 lakh.

The investigation began after a complaint was filed at Jayanagar Police Station on April 18, regarding a two-wheeler theft near Sangam Circle. Acting on leads and inputs from informants, police detained Mithun and Satish on April 23 at Gandhi Bazaar Road in Basavanagudi. Upon interrogation, both confessed to multiple crimes, including house burglaries in the limits of Subramanyapura and Konanakunte police stations, committed along with two other accomplices who are currently absconding.

Gold theft cracked in Girinagar

The Girinagar Police have cracked a house theft case with the arrest of a relative of the complainant, recovering gold jewellery worth ₹24.51 lakh.

According to the police, the complainant, a resident of Banashankari 3rd Phase, had filed a complaint on February 20, 2025, after discovering that 325 grams of gold jewellery was missing from the locker in his house. His wife and he had been away in Mumbai since January 18, leaving her younger sister and nephew at home. Upon their return on February 2, the theft remained unnoticed until February 20, when they opened the locker.

Following an investigation, the police took into custody the nephew of the complainant's wife on April 28. He was employed in Chennai at the time. During interrogation, he confessed to the theft and revealed that he had sold the stolen ornaments through a friend to two jewellery shops in Palace Guttahalli and another shop in Chennai.

Based on this, police issued notices to the shop owners and the friend and recoveries were made.

2 arrested for mobile and vehicle theft

Govindarajanagar Police have arrested two individuals in connection with a two-wheeler theft case, leading to the recovery of 33 stolen mobile phones and one two-wheeler, with the total seized property valued at 1.55 lakh.

The case was initially registered on January 16, 2025, after a resident of Marenahalli reported that his two-wheeler, parked near Vijayanagar Metro Station on January 1, had been stolen during his trip to Hassan.

Following up on leads, police arrested two suspects near Pattegarapalya Mori and recovered the stolen two-wheeler. During inspection, three mobile phones were also found in the vehicle. The suspects confessed to having stolen the phones from various parts of Bengaluru.

In total, 33 mobile phones and one two-wheeler were seized from the accused.

Pakistani kids' plea: HC notice to Centre, State

The High Court served a notice to the Union of India and State Government on Tuesday regarding a petition from three minor Pakistani children, requesting protection from coercive action until May 15, their intended departure date from India.

The matter, heard by vacation bench Justice MG Uma, has been scheduled for further proceedings on Thursday. The petitioners, minors represented by their mother who is wed to a Pakistani citizen, entered India with valid visas in January, set to expire in June.

The Central Government cancelled visas of all Pakistani nationals with immediate effect, mandating their return by April 30, 2025, after the Pahalgam attack.

The petitioners attempted to cross the Attari border on April 28, 2025, but were turned back to Mysuru as Pakistan had closed its borders to its citizens and no one was present to receive them.

They subsequently submitted a representation to the Commissioner of Police and Foreigners Registration Officer (Mysuru) requesting visa extension or long-term visa. Their application remains pending without decision. The petitioners have sought the high court's intervention through a mandamus, requesting consideration of their representation and protection from coercive measures for 15 days, as they plan to return to Pakistan by May 15, after attending a wedding on May 12. —BMB

Reval order stopped

IN HIGH COURT

Single bench had ordered re-evaluation of answer scripts

A division bench of the high court recently overturned a single-bench interim directive that had ordered Karnataka Veterinary Animal and Fisheries Sciences University, Bidar, to re-evaluate answer scripts of Maseera Naveed, a BVSc student.

"When there was no provision in the rules or regulations of BVSc to ask for re-evaluation of answer sheets, the single bench was entirely unjustified in passing the direction for re-evaluation. What was not permitted in the regulation cannot be granted even as principal relief, much less to be ventured for interim relief," stated the division bench comprising Chief Justice NV Anjaria and Justice MI Arun.

On November 25, 2024, the single bench issued an interim order instructing university authorities to conduct re-evaluation of Maseera's papers through a different evaluator.

The university contested the order, stating that the petitioner, a second-year BVSc student, had not passed veterinary microbiology. Following her application for re-totalling, the failure was confirmed. Maseera requested re-evaluation of her answer book, which was denied as regulations did not allow it. She initially filed a writ petition seeking re-evaluation but withdrew it, only to file another petition for the same request. —BMB

IN BRIEF

Man held for recording woman in shop washroom

The Koramangala police have arrested a housekeeping staff member of a popular sweet shop for secretly recording a woman inside the washroom.

The incident took place on April 25, when a 25-year-old private firm employee visited the shop on Koramangala 60 Feet Road around 8 pm to use the restroom. While inside, she noticed movement through the fibre glass wall in front of her. As she bent down to check, she was shocked to find a mobile phone pointed at her from outside.

Realising that someone was recording her, she raised an alarm and later filed a complaint with the police.

Following the complaint, police began an investigation and arrested the accused, identified as Amod (26). The police also recovered the phone used to record the video which has now been sent to FSL for extraction or retrieving evidence.

The survivor later shared her experience on social media, expressing how unsafe public places can be for women. —BMB

Mining case: Janardhana Reddy gets 7 years' jail

In a major verdict on Monday, the CBI Special Court in Hyderabad sentenced Gangavati MLA and Obalapuram Mining Company (OMC) head Gali Janardhana Reddy to seven years of rigorous imprisonment in the infamous Obalapuram illegal mining case. Four others, including senior government and company officials, were also convicted and handed the same sentence.

Those found guilty include BV Srinivasa Reddy, former Managing Director of OMC, VD Rajagopal, then Director of Mines & Geology, Andhra Pradesh, Mehfuz Ali Khan, partner at Devi Enterprises and the Obulapuram Mining Company itself, which was fined ₹1 lakh. The total fine imposed in the case amounts to ₹1.4 lakh.

The court's decision follows a 13-year investigation that began in 2009, when the CBI registered the case after orders from then Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yeddyurappa. The accused were found to have conspired to illegally mine iron ore by encroaching on government and private lands in Anantapur district, causing a loss of over ₹800 crore to the exchequer. Around 29 lakh tonnes of ore were illegally extracted from the Obalapuram region near the Andhra–Karnataka border.

The CBI had filed the first chargesheet in 2011, followed by three supplementary chargesheets. After examining thousands of documents and over 200 witnesses, the court found all five guilty of serious offenses and delivered its final verdict. —BMB

tender & notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that my client has agreed to purchase the property described in the schedule below from **PUTTAHANUME GOWDA S/o. late. Bennegowda** and **K.A. RANGAPPA S/o. Adaviyappa** both are residing at **KATTHI HOSAHALLI** Village, Doddabelavangala Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. If any persons /s has/have any claim / right, title and interest in the schedule property or have any objections, can lodge the complaint same with the undersigned with documentary proof, within One **(7 Days)** Weeks from the date of publication of the notice. If no claim / objection exists and my client will proceed to complete the sale transaction. Any Claims/objections received beyond the stipulated period will not be entertained.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property being agricultural dry Land bearing **Sy. No. 29/9** measuring 04 guntas, **Old Sy. No. 29/9 New Sy. No. 29/27** measuring 08.50 guntas, **Old Sy. No. 43/2 New Sy. No. 43/6** measuring 25 guntas and **Old Sy. No. 44/2B & 44/6 New Sy. No. 44/13** measuring 12.50 guntas, **totally measuring 01Acre 10 guntas,** situated at KATTHI HOSAHALLI Village, Dodda belavangala Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

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Bengaluru
Date: 07.05.2025

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Our client intends to purchase scheduled mentioned property from its lawful owner **Miss. N. L. YESHODHARA.**, Aged about 71 years, D/o. N. Lakshminarayana, Residing at No. 47, 12th Cross, Opp., Hombegowda's Residence, Wilson Garden, Bengaluru-560027. The public are hereby given notice that any person/s or any incorporated body claiming any right, title or interest of any nature or having any lien, charge or enforceable right in respect of the schedule property or anybody having objection to the transaction may put forth their claims in writing with the undersigned together with supporting documents **within 15 days** from this date, failing which it will be presumed that no valid claim/s or objection/s subsist against the purchaser and the Schedule Property is free from all encumbrances.

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For DLAW Associates
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Response to police initiative to halt burglaries remains lukewarm

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

participation data isn't available, even rough estimates show that less than 0.5% of households are making use of the locked house-check system.

"There is still a lack of awareness among people about this system. Many are simply not aware that such a facility exists. I urge citizens to make use of it and help prevent house burglaries," Lokesh Jagalasar told BM.

System not restricted to single division

Officials clarified that the locked house-checking service is being used around all the eight divisions and residents across the city can notify their nearest police station before heading out

of town. Once alerted, local police include the home in their routine patrols to help prevent potential break-ins.

Despite the availability of this preventive service across Bengaluru, public participation remains negligible. Police say there are barely any takers in most divisions, and the system continues to be underutilised, even in areas where surveillance is active and regular.

"Though the percentage of residents informing the police before leaving town is low or vary, people are still taking precautions on their own, like locking up houses securely, avoiding leaving valuables behind, keeping lights on, or halting newspaper deliveries that might signal no one's home," said Commissioner Dayananda.

He added that interest in informing police varies from division to division, but overall, property thefts have seen a dip in the first three months of this year compared to the same period last year.

From January to March 2025, Bengaluru recorded 1,165 burglary cases, including both daytime and nighttime incidents. Daytime break-ins were notably higher. In comparison, 1,363 cases were reported during the same period in 2024, indicating a slight overall decline.

RCB fans in soup over goat sacrifice

Police have arrested three Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) fans for allegedly sacrificing a goat in front of a cutout of cricketer Virat Kohli in Mariyammanahalli village of Molakalmuru taluk, Chitradurga district, officials said on Tuesday.

The arrested persons -- Sanna Palayya (22 years), Jayanna (23 years), and Tippe Swamy (28 years) -- are all residents of Mariyammanahalli.

The incident came to light after a video of the ritual following RCB's thrilling victory over the Chennai Super Kings (CSK) at the Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru surfaced on social media and quickly went viral, prompting police action. In the 20-second video, one of the men is seen holding a goat in front of Kohli's cutout.

As another announces RCB's victory over Chennai Super Kings (CSK), the animal is slaughtered with a machete, and its blood is offered as raktaabhisheka (blood offering) to the cut-out and a poster of Kohli. A third person is seen restraining the goat with a rope.

The video, posted on Instagram by a user with the handle "call-me-143-kalki," sparked outrage online. **IANS**

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHARANABASAPPA HURAKADLI, Residing at No 80, Brindavan Apartment, 2nd Cross, Silver Oak Street, J.P. Nagar 7th Phase, Bangalore-560078, Have changed our minor daughter name from KRUTI to KRUTI SHARANABASAPPA HURAKADLI, vide affidavit dated 06/05/2025 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

I, Subhoda Krishna Shetty S/o Krishna Shetty Kaikar Poovanna , R/at # no.579, 2nd Main, 2nd Phase, 6th Block, BSK 3rd stage, Bengaluru 560085, have changed my name to Subhod Krishna Shetty, for all purposes

I, R.Latha W/o Chetan Jain R/o No 887, 2nd Floor, Thungabhadra Nadi Road,9th Main,Pipeline Road, Banashankari, B'luru 560050 have changed my name to C.Latha Jain for all purposes.

I, Mohammed Wahid Sab R/o 52/2 Umar Bagh Pragathipura Post Bsk 2nd Stage Bangalore have changed my minor son's name from Mohammed Wahid Sab to Mohammed Sanahulla for all purposes.

I Syed Akmal S/O, Tirupur Allauddin Syed Jaffer R/o No 57/1,9th Main Road, Old Gurappana Palya, Bengaluru - 560029 have changed my name to Syed Saifuddin.

I, hitherto known as Vikas Chauhan S/O Trilok Chauhan R/O (Bangalore), Karnataka, 560068, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Vikash Chauhan.

GALLERIA

St. Philomena Public School & English High School

Maruthi nagar, Mahadeshwaranagar Main Road, Herohalli Cross, Banaglore

Heartiest Congratulations to the toppers of S.S.L.C Examination 2024-25

St. Philomena Public School & English High School

Maruthi nagar, Mahadeshwaranagar Main Road, Herohalli Cross, Banaglore

Empower Tree Expert Committee, say experts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

As per rules, an application made for felling more than 50 trees can be moved forward only after publishing a public notice and inviting objections. The Karnataka High Court, in an order passed in 2019, had stated that the Tree Officer must ensure that none of the authorities circumvent the provision by submitting a separate application seeking permission for felling of less than 50 trees for the same projects for the public purpose. Whenever the Tree Officer finds that such applications are made, he shall ensure that the authorities concerned are told to file a consolidated application so that the requirement of giving public notice will come into play.

Tree activists also said that, given the degree of loss of green cover in Bengaluru, notice should be given and objections should be invited even in cases where fewer than 50 trees are to be cut.

50 is too many?

"Given Bengaluru's situation, every tree is important. Currently, the rule is that if the number of trees proposed to be cut is more than 50, there should be a public notice issued and objections invited. This rule in Maharashtra kicks in for 25 trees. Karnataka should reconsider this number, looking at the huge loss of green cover. Public notice should be issued even when the number of trees is less than 50," said Dattatreya Devare, trustee of Bangalore Environment Trust.

Environmentalists also opine that the Tree Expert Committee (TEC) should be further strengthened and empowered.

"Currently, TEC's member secretary is an official from BBMP's Forest Cell. This does not give the committee full autonomy, as there might be a conflict of interest. This conflict is also present in the case of BBMP's Forest Cell functioning as it has to work with the Road Infrastructure Department of the civic agency, and both departments have a common head. Ideally, BBMP's Forest Cell should be brought under the state forest department. Previous DCFs in BBMP have spoken about the pressure while delivering their duty," added Devare.

Activists also say the Forest Minister should keep a close eye on compensatory plantations carried out for such projects.

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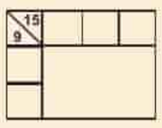
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

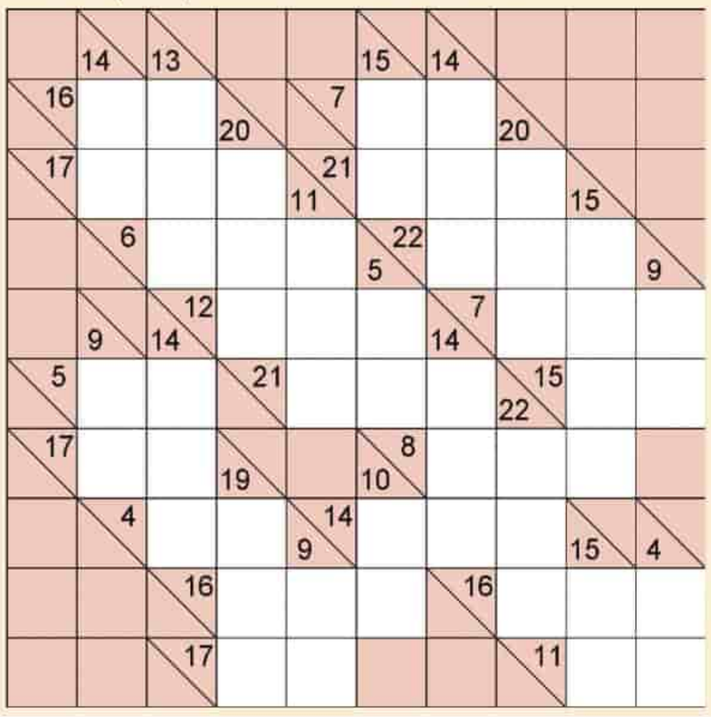
√(1000^1/3 + 216^1/3) = ?

Kakuro

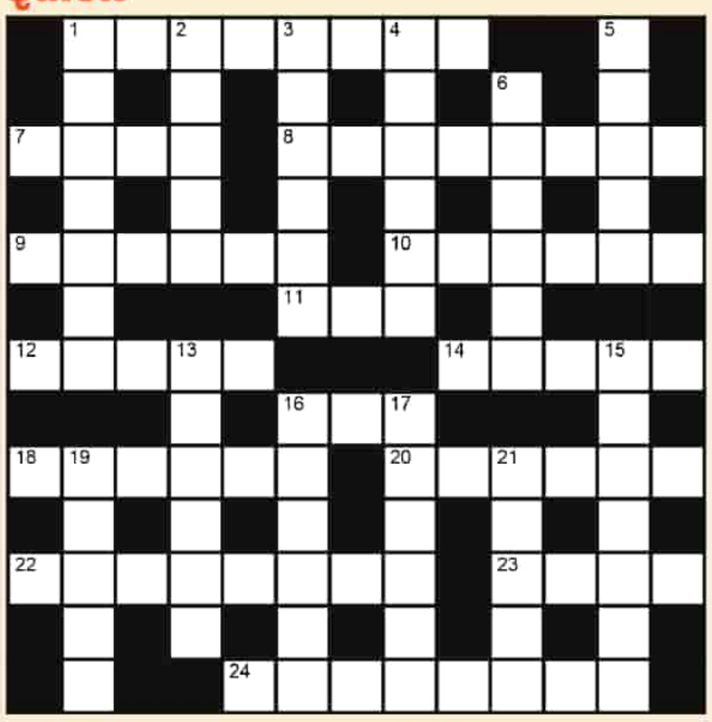
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Salt water fish (8)
7 Ship's prison (4)
8 Aircraft industry (8)
9 Ferocious (6)
10 South American country (6)
11 Ex-P.M. Narsimha ___ (3)
12 Swimming stroke (5)
14 Glued (5)
16 French for 'Duke' (3)
18 Racial neighbourhood–like those of Jews in Warsaw (6)
20 Take or fill up space or time (6)
22 Kill oneself as a sacrifice (8)
23 Part of the face (4)
24 Taking into one's family (8)

DOWN

1 Horseshoer (7)
2 Great rage (5)
3 One who cures, a doctor for one? (6)
4 With hands on hips (6)
5 New Zealand native (5)
6 Narrow channel (6)
13 Sherlock Holmes' sidekick (6)
15 Imitating (7)
16 Disney's duck (6)
17 Rise to surface (4,2)
19 Tourist destination which used to be the capital of the Vijayanagar Empire (5)
21 Prickly plants (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Y EQUALS U

KBAF NX IBYU ZX OIF WBUXZXS, NXJ HBY VZKK AEFXJ NKK JNH KBBTZXS RBU ZO.

Linemaro

Did you invent the plane? Because you seem Wright for me

Mindchow

Oh senseless man, who cannot possibly make a worm, and yet makes gods by the dozens

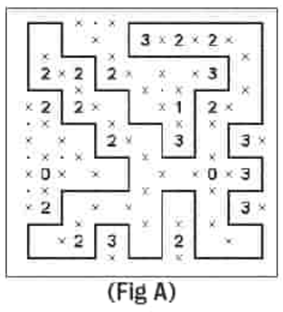
Joke of the day

Classical music is the kind we keep thinking will turn into a tune

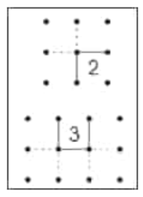
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

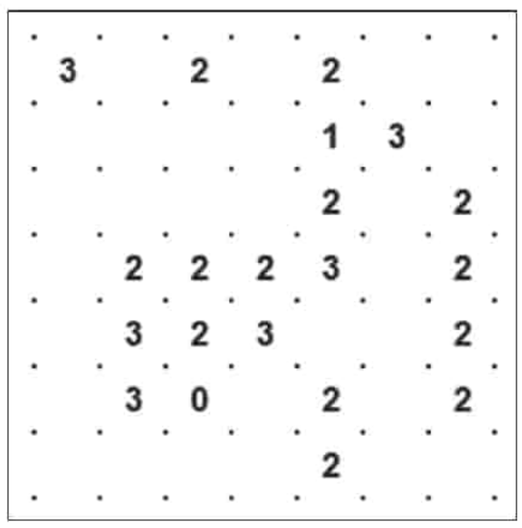


(Fig B) Not Allowed

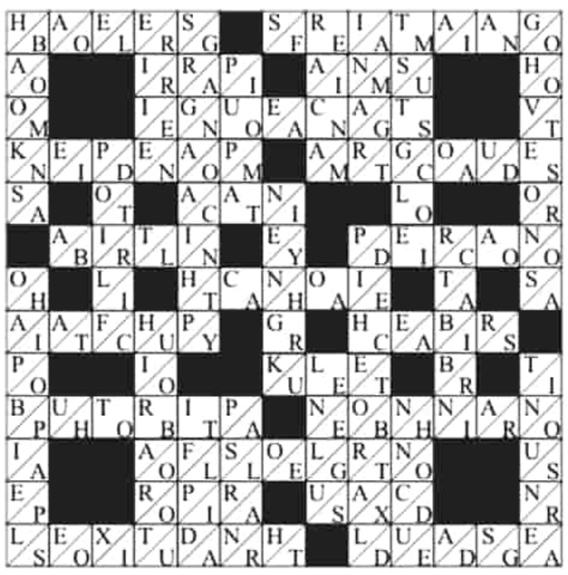
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



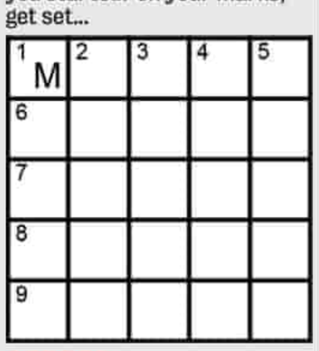
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

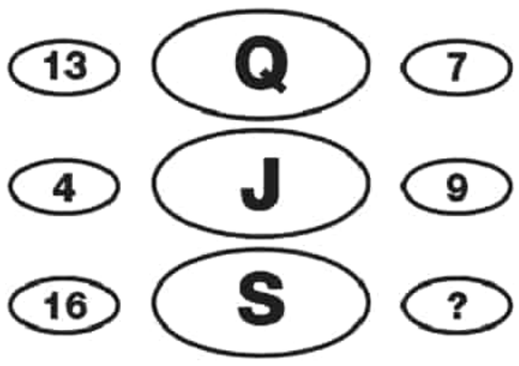
1 Teams; 6 Canon; 7 Re Pig; 8 I icon; 9 Lick C

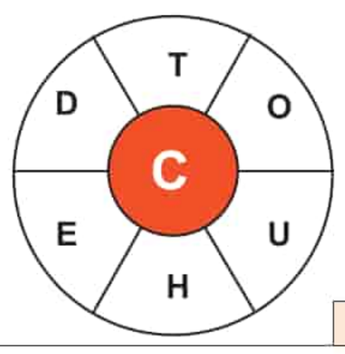
DOWN

1 Gamic; 2 Loner; 3 In CIA; 4 Optic; 5 Necks

Mensapuzzle

Which number completes the puzzle?





Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

08 Average; **09** Good; **11** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	5			6			7	
			3		1			
3	4			7			1	6
9		8				3		5
		3	9		2	4		
7		4				6		1
4	7			8			5	2
			1		5			
	3			2			6	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 9

3 6 8 8

Medium = 6

2 2 7 9

Hard = 12

1 2 5 6

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

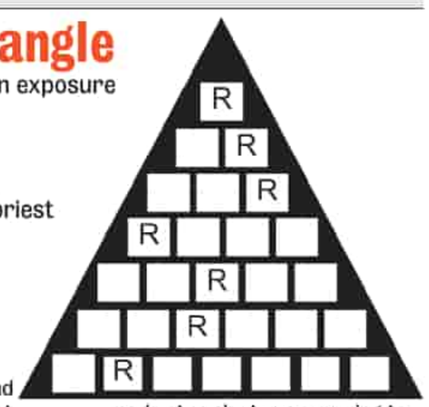
Differences: 1. Windows in door are different. 2. Leg is moved. 3. Curler is missing. 4. Sun is moved. 5. Fence is wider. 6. Thumb is moved.

Riddler

Alan fires a bullet from his hand gun and his friend Wade catches the bullet with his bare hands. The gun shoots actual, deadly bullets. The bullet does not touch anything but air after it leaves the gun and until it reaches Wade's hand. Wade is uninjured. How does he do it?

Alpha triangle

1 A unit of radiation exposure
2 Infra-red abbr
3 Evergreen tree
4 Fissure
5 Before all others
6 Confession to a priest
7 Scares



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye

BLOW ME DOWN!?
WHA'S 'AT?
IT'S AN' ARTIST!
I AM ABOUT TO PROVE THAT SCIENCE CAN DO ANYTHING!!
WHEN WIMPY ARRIVES I WILL COMMAND IT TO PAINT AN OBJET D'ART!
8-9
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

I'M HOOOOME.
FINALLY! IT'S 7P.M.! I'M STARVING!
SORRY, HEART. I'M DEALING WITH A LOT AT WORK, AND I LOST TRACK OF TIME.
YOU'RE DEALING WITH A LOT?! TRY BEING TWELVE!
NO OFFENSE, HEART, BUT I WAS TWELVE ONCE. AND IT'S NOT NEARLY AS STRESSFUL. TRY BEING A SINGLE MOM.
WAIT, ACTUALLY, DON'T TRY THAT.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@OOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

I WANTED TO CALL MY CARTOON COUNTER CULTURE CHRONICLES, BUT WE EVENTUALLY SETTLED ON... RAPPING AROUND
I WORKED REALLY HARD ON THAT FIRST PANEL BECAUSE 4 OUR FIRST CARTOON IN A BONA FIDE NEWSPAPER ONLY HAPPENS ONCE!
1-29 BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may feel happy. Chronic health issues in the family may not be resolved yet. However, funds that were previously stuck could be recovered, improving your business liquidity. Employees may receive incentives, enhancing financial health. Job seekers might secure a position through a friend or relative's reference. Students could benefit from academic support from their peers.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you are likely to use your creativity to renovate your home or office. Your focus on goals remains strong. However, overworking may cause mental fatigue, anxiety, or stress, which could impact your domestic life. Students should avoid fantasy and create a practical study schedule, following it with discipline and willpower.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
You may feel impatient today, which could affect your work quality. Minor mistakes might lead to project delays. Postpone any investments in fixed assets for now. However, with destiny on your side, you may regain focus and start correcting the course of your day by evening.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
You may receive good news from a sibling and enjoy time with family and friends. Using your creativity, you might plan to renovate your home or office. A new partnership with a family member could prove beneficial. Colleagues are likely to be supportive with ongoing projects.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
The Moon's blessings may support you today. You might plan renovations for your home or office but are advised to stay within budget to protect your savings. Be cautious with your words—your directness might hurt loved ones. Watch for health issues related to the teeth, throat, ears, or nose.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today brings happiness and peace of mind. You'll likely perform efficiently at work, with support from subordinates in important decisions. You may plan a new venture involving your siblings or professional network, potentially boosting business growth. Ensure proper rest to maintain energy levels.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
You may feel detached from your responsibilities and could overspend on unnecessary items, which might bring negative energy. Keep a close eye on opponents or rivals, as you could fall victim to workplace politics. Always read documents carefully before signing anything.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may enjoy a balanced family and professional life. Your polite behavior will aid smooth project completion. New income sources may emerge, strengthening your savings. Renovation plans for your home or office might also take shape. Professionals may receive promotions.

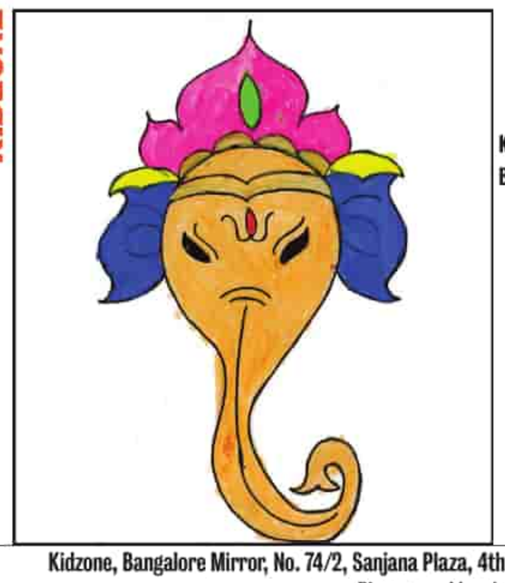
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
You may be busy at work, but your wisdom will guide you to make the right business decisions. A large order might expand your business. You may also channel your creativity into renovating your home or office, elevating your social image. Investing in creative assets is also likely.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
With the Moon's blessing, you'll face challenges with patience and enjoy your work. A short work trip could be planned, where siblings and colleagues might support you. This will help strengthen your social network. Job seekers should use their connections for opportunities.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Health concerns, especially sleeplessness, may make you irritable. Avoid arguments at work or home to prevent conflicts. You may feel drawn to spiritual or occult subjects, and enter a phase of self-reflection. However, your past good deeds could guide you out of this emotional turbulence.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
You may plan to renovate your home and purchase decorative or creative items that improve your social image. Investments in property or other assets are likely. Romantic moments with your spouse will strengthen emotional bonds. Singles may meet their soulmate, and couples might make important decisions regarding marriage.

KIDZONE



Kruthi, Bengaluru

Darshan, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M = $\sqrt{(10+6)}=\sqrt{16}$ = 4

RIDDLER Alan fires his bullet from a .25 ACP (Automatic Colt Pistol), which will reach a maximum height of 2,287 feet. He shoots directly upward while standing at the base of Burj Khalifa, a 2,722 foot tall building. Wade is a window cleaner at that building, waiting at 2,287 feet. When the bullet reaches that height and is about to go back down again, he reaches out with his bare hands and catches it.

FAST FIVE

C	L	I	C	K
I	O	N	I	C
G	R	I	P	E
A	N	C	O	N
M	E	A	T	S

BULL'S EYE
chute, code, cued, cute, douche, duct, echo, etch, ouch, touch, TOUCHED

STRIKE OUT

S	E	X	T	A	N	T	■	L	E	D	C	G	E	
E	■	R	I	A	■	S	A	D	■	■	■	R	■	
I	■	A	L	L	E	G	R	O	■	■	■	U	■	
P	H	O	B	I	A	■	E	O	N	I	A	N	■	
P	■	O	■	■	U	L	T	■	B	■	■	I	■	
H	I	■	T	A	H	O	E	■	A	■	■	S	■	
A	R	T	I	■	E	■	P	E	R	O	N	■	■	
S	O	■	C	A	N	■	L	■	■	■	R	■	■	
K	I	D	N	A	P	■	A	R	C	A	D	E	■	
O	■	I	G	U	A	N	A	S	■	■	V	■	■	
H	O	L	E	S	■	F	R	A	M	I	N	G	■	

QUICK

■	■	■	■	■	■	A	D	O	P	T	I	N	G	I
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	P
■	■	■	■	■	■	N	■	■	L	■	T	■	N	I
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	M
■	■	■	■	■	■	S	■	■	N	■	■	■	■	A
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	G
■	■	■	■	■	■	A	■	D	U	■	C	■	■	C
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	R
■	■	■	■	■	■	E	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	A
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	F
■	■	■	■	■	■	R	■	E	■	■	■	■	■	R
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	B
■	■	■	■	■	■	A	■	N	■	■	■	■	■	A
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	F

MENSA PUZZLE
6. In each row of the diagram, the numerical value of the middle letter equals the sum of the left and right hand numbers, subtracting 3.

QUOTE UNCODE
Lose an hour in the morning, and you will spend all day looking for it.

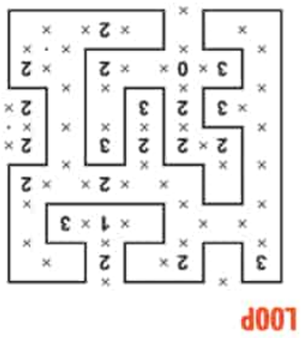
SUDOKU

8	5	1	2	6	4	9	7	3
6	9	7	3	5	1	2	4	8
3	4	2	8	7	9	5	1	6
9	1	8	7	4	6	3	2	5
5	6	3	9	1	2	4	8	7
7	2	4	5	3	8	6	9	1
4	7	9	6	8	3	1	5	2
2	8	6	1	9	5	7	3	4
1	3	5	4	2	7	8	6	9

ALPHA TRIANGLE
R, In, Fir, Rift, First, Shrift, Flights.

GO FIGURE
Easy
3 − 8 + 8 + 6 = 9
9 + 2 − 7 + 2 = 6
Hard
6 + 5 − 1 + 2 = 12

LOOP



KAKURO

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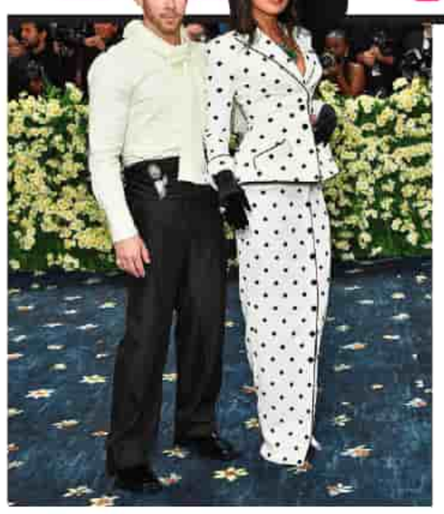
Stayed The Delhi High Court on Tuesday stayed an interim order in a copyright case against music composer AR Rahman and the makers of the film "Ponniyin Selvan 2" over a musical composition

Met highlights

We pick the best moments of Met Gala 2025



Vintage fashion

Global head-turner Priyanka Chopra looked drop-dead-gorgeous as she flaunted vintage Hollywood fashion.

Priyanka took to Instagram, where she shared her look for the event dressed by Olivier Rousteing of luxury fashion house Balmain for the 2025 theme "Superfine: Tailoring Black Style". She wore a white halter-neck dress with black polka dots with a black belt at the waist and black buttons down the center. She completed her look with a big black wide-brim hat.

More the merrier

Rihanna and A$AP Rocky are expecting their third child together, and the mumma-to-be has officially revealed the news on the 2025 Met Gala red carpet!

The couple, who have been iconic figures at the Met Gala, showcased their impeccable style as they arrived at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

Rihanna, 37, debuted her baby bump in a stunning grey corset with a black floor-length skirt and cropped black jacket, topped with a black hat.

King in black

Bollywood's ultimate showman, Shah Rukh Khan, just added another feather to his already glittering cap! On May 5, the King of Hearts made a dazzling debut at the iconic Met Gala, strutting down the red carpet of New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art. In doing so, he made history as the first Indian male actor to ever grace fashion's most glamorous night — and of course, he did it in true SRK style.

Draped in a show-stopping black ensemble by the legendary Sabyasachi Mukherjee, Shah Rukh channeled timeless elegance with a dash of royal flair. He wore a silk sherwani-style jacket teamed with black trousers. But it was the layered necklaces that truly sealed the deal — glimmering with diamond-studded 'K' pendants, a clever and classy wink to his iconic title: King Khan.

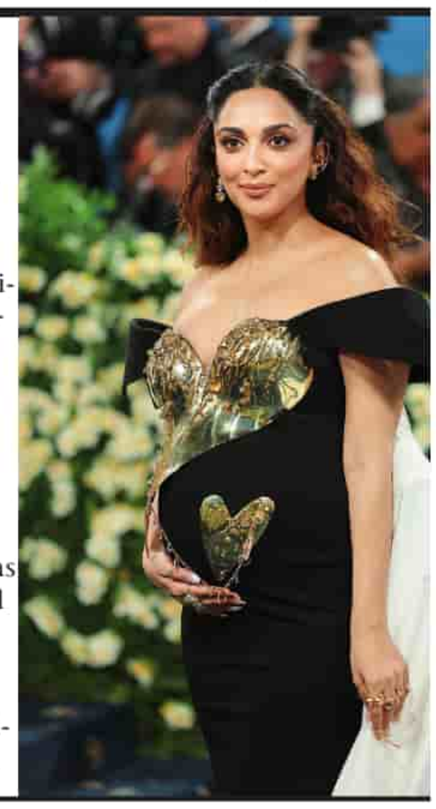
> **The coat is hand canvassed, single breasted with a peak collar and wide lapels**
> –Sabyasachi Mukherjee

Praise for Kiara

Actress Alia Bhatt was all praise for Kiara Advani's Met Gala look as she made her debut in Hollywood's biggest fashion night on Monday (early Tuesday) and publicly revealed her baby bump for the first time.

Kiara turned heads at the Met Gala 2025, confidently showcasing her baby bump in a breathtaking gown by renowned Gaurav Gupta. She paired her dress with the golden breastplate. She also relied on accessories and wore charms on her nails along with chunky golden jewellery on her fingers. In addition to her fans, the Bollywood fraternity was also in awe of her ethereal beauty at the Met Gala 2025.

Alia Bhatt posted on her Instagram handle to praise the look.



Punjab pride

Popular singer-star Diljit Dosanjh honoured his Sikh roots and home state Punjab in his debut at the Met Gala 2025 with a regal white ensemble complete with a kirpan, turban and a layered necklace in a hat tip to the Maharaja Bhupinder Singh of Patiala.

Diljit wore an ivory and gold sherwani along with a tehmat by American-Nepalese designer Prabal Gurung.

The musician, who hails from Punjab's Dosanjh village, completed his look with a bejewelled turban adorned with a white 'kalgi' and a lion-headed, jewel-studded kirpan, a cape with the silhouetted map of Punjab and alphabets in the Punjabi script Gurmukhi embroidered on it. His belt bore hand-embroidered traditional Indian motifs like lotus flowers and peacocks.

Engagement ring

At this year's Met Gala, Zendaya once again proved that style and symbolism go hand in hand.

The Emmy-winning actress graced the iconic steps of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in a crisp, all-white ensemble.

In tune with the event's 2025 theme, 'Superfine: Tailoring Black Style', the 'Challengers' star donned a striking Louis Vuitton menswear-inspired suit, paired with a classic white fedora and a sleek bun. She kept her makeup dewy. But there was one more star of the show.

Peeking through the spotlight was a dazzling piece of jewellery, the engagement ring from her fiance, Tom Holland.

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

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Political satire

A film by Dhiraj MV, Kapata Nataka Sutradhari, is being billed as India's first new age political satire.

"Kapata Nataka Sutradhari is my maiden movie in Sandalwood. Prior to this, I worked as an associate director for veteran director Sunil Kumar Desai and late Mata Guru Prasad. The movie is based on multiple real incidents. The new age movement began in Eastern Europe in the early 1990s. So far, no movie has been made on the new age movement. Kapata Nataka Sutradhari belongs to new age political culture," said Dhiraj.

The movie's title and the first look poster, unveiled recently, received good feedback. "The movie's shooting was completed in a single schedule. We completed the shooting in 55 days at various locations, including Raibag Fort and a 1,000-year-old temple, in North Karnataka. As of now, sound designing is in progress. If all goes well, we will release the movie in June or July," he said.

The director said that he has also played a key character in the movie. "I am sure this movie will be entertaining to the audiences. It is a unique movie belonging to a unique genre," he said.

Abhiram Arjun plays the lead in the movie. Around 100 theatre artistes have also acted in the movie. Veeresh NTA has worked behind the camera while Prasanna Kumar MS has scored music.

Song is out

The team of Sees Kaddi was on cloud nine when the video of a song from the film was unveiled recently. The song – Bhedbhav Ellide Beeluva Malege – has become a hit. It is written by Mahendra Gowda while KC Balasarangan has scored its music and sung it along with Shubadha R Prakash. The movie is directed by Rathan Gangadhar.

Sees Kaddi is billed as a hyperlink anthology and is scheduled for release in the last week of this month. It has received a U certificate from the Central Board of Film Certification. Sees Kaddi has already been screened at various film festivals. It is said the script of the movie is structured around four interwoven stories. The characters in the movie are related to pencil, pencil lead, eraser, and sharpener. The movie is made with live-recorded sound.

The director claimed that some real-life incidents had inspired him to write the script for this movie. The four stories' dialogues and screenplay were written by four different people.

The movie's team has revealed that it revolves around a person born with a silver spoon and how he undertakes a tour to escape from family-related responsibilities.